

## MINUTES

For LEPC Meeting, February 23, 2000

A meeting of the Hamilton County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) was held February 23, 2000 at Chattanooga Police/Fire Training Center, 3200 Amnicola Highway, Chattanooga, TN 37406.

Those in attendance were:

Eric Burnett, City of Chattanooga, Traffic Engineering Division—**Chairman**  
David Darnell, BASF—**First Vice Chairman**  
Larry Martin, McKee Foods Corporation—**Vice Chairman**  
Dusty Rominger, W.R. Grace—**Vice Chairman**  
Jamie Farrow, Conagra—**Vice Chairman**  
Tony Quarels, Chattanooga Fire Department—**Vice Chairman**  
Wayne Stuntz, Hamilton County Emergency Services—**Secretary/Tier II Coordinator**  
Charles Chauncey, R.A.C.E.S.  
Jim Coppinger, Chattanooga Fire Department  
Roy Cincer, Chattanooga Fire Department—Visitor  
C. R. Goodner, R.A.C.E.S.  
Duane Pitts, Chattanooga Fire Department  
Tim Langford, Stormwater, City of Chattanooga—Visitor  
Billy Mullins, Tennessee State Guard  
Tim Arnold, Tennessee State Guard  
Bruce Garner, Chattanooga Fire Department  
Mike Edwards, McKee Foods Corporation  
Dawn Maddox, NA Industries  
Jeffrey West, Chevron Products Company—Visitor  
Kim Dalton, Tennessee-American Water Company—Visitor  
Wesley Jones, Velsicol Chemical Company  
Don Allen, Hamilton County Emergency Services  
Bill Tittle, Hamilton County Emergency Services  
Tony Reavely, Hamilton County Emergency Services  
Bill Tate, Dupont Plant  
David Ballard, PB & S Chemical  
Charlie Lamar, PB & S Chemical  
Mark Hogan, ABB Combustion Engineering  
Richard Taylor, TEMA East  
Bob Diehl, Electric Transit Vehicle Institute  
Kenny Martin, SOFIX Corporation  
Caroline Williams, League of Women Voters  
Girish Patel, ALCO Chemical  
Michael Wester, Norfolk Southern Railway, Visitor  
Joyce Wagner, Chattem Chemincals, Inc.

**Attendee's continued:**

Ken Moore, Hepaco, Incorporated  
Jim Parks, Chattanooga Health Department  
Brian D. Lopez-Cepero, Chattanooga Police Department  
Eric Helquist, Fuels Marketing, JAT Oil & Supply Co.  
Amy Maxwell, Hamilton County Emergency Services—Visitor  
Ernest Porter, Chattanooga Fire Dept. District I

Chairman Eric Burnet called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. He began by thanking the Chattanooga Fire Department for hosting the meeting and for the meal to follow the meeting. The Chairman distributed the meeting agenda to all members present.

Comments from Chief, Jim Coppinger were next on the agenda and he was granted the floor. Chief Coppinger informed the committee just how important the LEPC was to the Chattanooga Fire Department. He stressed that the CFD would be more involved with the LEPC than in the past and wanted to work hand-in-hand and be a partner with the Community and Industry. He said that the CFD would fully support the LEPC and would offer resources in the way of people—that Chief's Tony Quarrels and Chuck Nichols would be available to assist the LEPC in anyway they could. The Chief wanted the CFD to be familiar with Industry through the LEPC, participate on LEPC Committees, and attend regularly scheduled meetings. He also stressed that the citizens of Chattanooga were extremely important to the Department.

The Chief talked about the upgrading of CFD equipment (i.e. on-board computers and fire apparatus) and that together with the community/LEPC support—our resources to respond to emergencies would be second to none in the State. Lastly, he reiterated that the CFD was totally committed to a partnership with the Hamilton County LEPC.

Chief Coppinger asked the committee to consider a change in the Fire Department's LEPC Vice Chairman representative, Chief Quarles. Chief Coppinger suggested that this position might be better served by replacing Chief Quarles with Mr. Bruce Garner—a person who previously served on the LEPC Executive Committee. The motion was made, seconded and voted on in the affirmative.

The Chairman opened the meeting up by recognizing new visitors to the meeting. A motion was made and was seconded from the general membership to accept the following as new members to the Hamilton County LEPC:

Kim Dalton, TN-American Water Co.  
Jeffery West, Chevron Products Co.

The Chairman briefly mentioned that eight companies had fulfilled their legislative duties by participating in the RMP “rollout” sponsored by the LEPC, which allowed the general public to view each company’s risk management plans.

The Chairman then turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman, David Darnell who spoke to the committee about hosting an area wide LEPC conference for the 4<sup>th</sup> consecutive year. He said that for the past three years Hamilton County was fortunate enough to promote and host this type of conference and that the conference was well known and he would like it to happen again this year. It was noted that the proposed funding request for this seminar was sent to TEMA as part of our HMEP Grant request. He also said that last years HMEP funds were severely cut (in-half) and that the ’99 conference would not have occurred were it not for the support of a lot of companies and Hamilton County’s support to manage the whole process.

He said that Mr. Don Allen, Director of Hamilton County Emergency Services had given his approval to host the conference this year using funds granted by the State which totaled \$9,760.00. He said the funds this year were doubled compared to last year and hoped that the LEPC would favorably consider hosting the conference this.

Mr. Darnell made a motion to the Chairman who put it to a vote by the committee at large who were all in favor of hosting the conference. Mr. Darnell then asked that those who wished to participate on the conference committee to see him at the end of the meeting. Mr. Darnell later informed the Secretary, Mr. Wayne Stuntz that he had reserved the Trade Center for August 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to accommodate the day and a half conference.

The Chairman commented that this conference might particularly benefit those counties that do not have an LEPC since these counties may have HAZMAT response but do not have a HAZMAT team.

In keeping with the meeting agenda the Chairman talked about the Donation and Tier II Review letters that had been sent out to all companies who reported Tier II’s and some non-profit organizations. With regard to the annual fund raising letter, he said that the LEPC thus far had received contributions totaling \$650.00. With reference to Tier II forms—he asked that companies pay particular attention to providing 24-hour contact information, especially local contacts and to be on the lookout for the letter.

The Chairman informed the committee that he had developed a “Tier II List Summary with Emergency Contacts” spreadsheet which he shared with Chief Tony Reavley (Hamilton Co).and Chief Chuck Nichols (Chattanooga Fire Department). He said the spreadsheet was compiled from 1999 Tier II forms which listed the Company name; names of emergency contacts, their phone numbers, if listed—their pagers, and if they were reporting Extremely Hazardous Substances. He said that he hoped that this would be of benefit to these departments.

The Chairman turned the discussion to an article that appeared in the local newspaper about the Xavier Chemical Company's plan to startup at the TNT Munitions Plant on Bonny Oaks Drive. The Hamilton County Air Pollution Control Bureau and the Public Works Committee were concerned about the integrity of existing 30-year old equipment meeting the Bureau's standards for pipes and tanks. The Chairman gave examples below of sulfur trioxide (oleum) leakage that impacted large populations.

*August 4, 1997 release in Chicago, IL. - 550 gallons released, evacuation of 3000 residents within 3 square miles, 50 people treated at local hospitals*

*August, 1995 release in Wurtland, Ky – 23,800 gallons leak from a failed pipe that drained the tank, 3000 people evacuated, 1350 people went to shelters, 70 people treated at local hospitals*

*July 26, 1993 release in Richmond, California – release of 4 to 8 tons resulted in 14,198 hospital visits.*

The last agenda topic concerned the “Are You Ready?” disaster awareness day that the LEPC participated in last year. This event will be happening again this year on May the 20<sup>th</sup> at the Creative Discovery Museum. Last year the LEPC sponsored a booth that was staffed by our volunteers. The attendance at the CDM that day was around 800 children. The Chairman asked those interested to contact him.

David Darnell also mentioned that he had reserved a booth for the LEPC at this year's “Chattanooga Made!” which showcases local manufacturers at the Northgate Mall. Volunteers to staff this booth would be needed as well.

Past Chairman Bob Diehl asked a question whether or not we had enough LEPC Brochures and inquired about their storage location. The Chairman replied that there were approximately 30,000 printed a few years ago and that the boxes were stored in the ML King Building where the HCEMS offices are housed.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30am.

*Note: The LEPC will not have its meeting in April but its work still continues. Keep in mind that volunteers are still needed for the “Are You Ready?” Disaster Awareness Day at the Children's Discovery Museum set for May 20<sup>th</sup> (volunteers and their guests get in free). Also note that the LEPC will be participating in the “Chattanooga Made!” event at the Northgate Mall on the evenings of May 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> and volunteers are needed for this event also. Call Eric Burnett to schedule a time that you can work.*

